

enlightened courtesy is unfortunately too rare in this country, perhaps especially amongst schoolboys, in whom an insufferable "insularity" takes the place of patriotism.

But, whether English or foreign, nearly perfect or sadly deficient, the governess has a right to expect that the employers will uphold her prestige and authority over her pupils; if her peculiarities make this impossible, they will do better to give her place to another, for children cannot submit to a divided authority. If she should commit pardonable errors, they should be pointed out to her in private, never before the children. Parents should never, on any account, allow children to criticise their governess or to laugh at her; the little ones need not be discouraged however from relating small incidents to their mother if they wish it; the mother should appear convinced that the governess herself would not have the slightest objection to this.

The parents and the governess need have no false shame in acknowledging their business relationship before the children, for it is inconceivable that children whose father works to support them should consider it a dishonour for a woman to receive a well-deserved salary for her pains; parents capable of humiliating a gentlewoman on that score wish for no advice and would follow none. As it has already been said, parents so completely devoid of manners must be let alone or taken as they are, and it would be a mistake on the part of the governess to allow every little pin-prick to hurt her. If good reasons induce her to remain with them, she should meet them with an indifference made of some contempt, perhaps, and a great deal of pity—they know not what they do.

A well-bred mother who is desirous of bringing her children up to become refined men and women, will choose a well-bred girl for their governess, and will treat her as such, with as much consideration as they would show to a guest; the governess' comfort will be attended to, she will be given a pretty, bright, bed-room which she can look upon as her own, and fill with her own belongings; in the country she may keep pets of her own or have a little garden to cultivate. Her health will be cared for, books will be lent to her, in short, every attempt will be made to make her happy. Such thoughtfulness will be attended with unfailing success in a household where peace and love already reign; all the theories in the world cannot take their place.

## LETTER FROM MRS. FRANKLIN.

DEAR STUDENTS,

One welcomes the suggestion in your last number that members of your Association who cannot afford to subscribe to the "Parents' Review" should avail themselves of the offer made by one or two members to pass the Review on to them.

Anything which will encourage ex-students of the House of Education to *read* the Review must commend itself to all who have their welfare at heart. One cannot help bemoaning how many old students lose not only their enthusiasm but even their efficiency when they are working in distant country posts and with people who are not able to give them much help and support. In wanderings up and down the country lecturing at various branches, when I of course speak of the House of Education as well as of the other organizations in connection with our work, I hear reports of many students. Naturally, one is often cheered by people who speak gratefully of their governesses' work; but I am sorry to say one also too often hears of ex-students who fall very short of the best standard. Every student should realize the responsibility towards the College and towards Miss Mason's teaching and training which rests upon her shoulders, and how such facts as these I am about to mention cast discredit on the work which we all so much value:—

A. tells me of a student who refused to be in the schoolroom out of actual lesson hours, and who generally thought only of pleasure-seeking and self.

B. (not a P.N.E.U. member, and knowing nothing of our work), mentions that her governess, one who had done well at College and was highly recommended, continually failed to manage or interest her pupils. The lady, most anxious to help her, suggested, as one little aid to schoolroom management, that the children should sit opposite to and not by the side of the teacher. Think, dear students, that any of your number should need to have so elementary a factor in "The

"Teacher's Attitude" pointed out to her by a lay person ! When I suggested to this lady that she should join the P.R.S. she was simply overjoyed at the idea, but had never heard of it ! Would one not have thought that every ex-student would have introduced so great a help to herself directly she had an opportunity ?

C., a very enthusiastic P.N.E.U. member, and anxious, as we all are, that students should do themselves justice, describes how her governess spends all her spare time not in cultivating herself and reading, &c., but in writing innumerable letters.

D. reports with pain how a student on a nature walk finds a rare flower, which she picks and hides from her pupils, true nature lovers though they are, and takes home to paint in her own note-book.

Naturally the quiet, honest, solid work which is being done in so many schoolrooms throughout the country makes less noise than these instances of unsatisfactory work, but it is well that we should all realize how true this is and strengthen our armour the more.

To my mind one potent antidote to this kind of thing would be that every student should *read* the "Parents' Review." If this Review is looked upon as the greatest help and inspiration by parents, how much more valuable even should it be to teachers who are actually face to face with the daily work. Not only does the Review refresh us by reminding us of our ideals and our principles, but it shows the new lines of development in P.N.E.U. thought. What do those of you, who were not at the Conference or have not read the Review, know of Miss Mason's masterly and inspiring definition of education as "the science of Relations?" I find it quite inexplicable that those good, earnest students, who write and tell me how disappointed they are at not being present at our Conference, and who say how delightfully interesting the programme looks, should deny themselves the pleasure and professional help to be derived from reading the papers afterwards published at full length in the Review. Yet I could give you the names of many really good students of whom this is true. You say that many cannot afford the Review. This seems difficult to believe when one knows the salaries which they are receiving ; but if it be so I would suggest that the penny a week (it

is very little more) should be saved by writing one letter less. May I, as a real House of Education friend, go even further and suggest that if some students spent less on their hats and had not quite such trailing skirts, there might be more money to spend on the "Parents' Review" and other books. Fashion is not always a beautiful nor a suitable mistress to follow, and I think all true gentlewomen should choose "Simplicitas" as a better leader.

Moreover, apart from the fitness of simple and practical workaday dress, we must remember that the votaries of fashionable skirts and hats need both time and money to keep these tidy ; otherwise they very soon resemble the garments of the factory girl, who is also a follower of Fashion. Not long ago I was interviewing a lady nurse for a friend. She was a clergyman's daughter, and had passed her London matriculation ; but her devotion to little children made her choose nursery rather than schoolroom duties. When discussing this very question I felt her answer savoured of so much wisdom and self-respect that I wished every young woman could hear it. "I think it best," she said, "to leave finery to the servants." *Revenons à nos moutons !* and let me conclude with an earnest entreaty that every one of you will subscribe to and *read* the "Parents' Review," and when you do so that you will notice the Branch Reports at the end, and, if you are within reach of any, communicate with the local secretaries and go to the lectures. You know that you are all *life members of the Union*, and entitled to all the privileges of membership—lectures, books from the library, &c., &c.

Every student living within reach of a Branch could do much to help the work, particularly with Natural History rambles, &c., and in doing so she would strengthen her own convictions and help forward her own work. Notice too the new list in the Review of the many pamphlets we now issue. How many of you possess these? Get them (they cost a few pence only), read them, and lend them.

Forgive me for such a long letter.

Yours faithfully,

H. FRANKLIN,

Hon. Organizing Secretary P.N.E.U.